



Michigan

Emerald Ash Borer Response Project

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Michigan Department Natural Resources
Michigan State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Awards Bids for Emerald Ash Borer Tree Removal in Southeast Michigan

The State of Michigan awarded bids today to 26 contractors to assist homeowners and communities in removing landscape ash trees within the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantined counties of Southeast Michigan. The announcement was made by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Dan Wyant and the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB) Director Mitch Irwin.

"We are very pleased to offer this voluntary program, which is just one step in a growing partnership to assist homeowners and communities while fighting this destructive pest," said Wyant.

The plan, unveiled in October 2004, uses the state's contract system as a vehicle to pool demand and generate lower prices. Communities and homeowners in Michigan's EAB quarantined counties in southeast Michigan will realize cost savings generated by grouping large volumes of trees for removal.

"This invasive pest has had a devastating impact on Michigan's environment, as well as on individual homeowners and communities who are facing tremendous tree removal costs," said Patricia Lockwood, EAB Policy Director for Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. "This innovative program offers those most impacted by EAB a much-needed and affordable avenue for removing these trees, and reduces the public safety risk associated with dead and dying ash trees."

The voluntary program will be available to the county, township, city and village governments in the following EAB quarantined counties: Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wayne.

"We are pleased by the level of participation among the tree removal community and, in turn, the opportunities this will provide to public and private landowners," said Irwin. "Continued cooperation among state, local and industry representatives remains key to our overall EAB response efforts."

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Some specifics of the program are:

HOMEOWNERS: Only local units of government may access the program on behalf of homeowners.

Homeowners should contact local officials to determine if their community will be participating in the program. Additionally, in the coming weeks, a list of participating communities will be available on the MDA web site at www.michigan.gov/eab.

LOCAL OFFICIALS: Training sessions will be held by MDA and DMB to advise local officials on how best to: implement the state's contract criteria; create a work plan for the contractor; and receive and account for fees paid by the property owner for removal of their trees. The first session was held Tuesday, January 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Wixom Community Center. The next session is scheduled for January 27, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the SEMCOG office, located at 535 Griswold, Suite 300, in Detroit.

Additional orientations will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the MDA Southfield office, 26400 Lahser Road, Suite 415, in Southfield. Please refer to the MDA Web site for regularly updated information and registration procedures for these orientations, or contact the Southfield office at (248) 356-1701.

For more information on the program or on EAB in general, visit the MDA Web site at www.michigan.gov/eab.

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(This news release is also available online at www.michigan.gov/mda)



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Michigan revises Emerald Ash Borer quarantine to further prevent spread of pest

Seven new counties added as precaution to help protect state's ash trees

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has amended the state's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine, based upon extensive survey efforts and recommendations of the national science advisory panel.

"Effective today, the state added seven new counties as well as including each 'outlier' site to the EAB quarantine as part of the overall EAB response strategy," said MDA Director Dan Wyant. "Amending the quarantine demonstrates the aggressive approach Michigan is taking to prevent further spread and minimize the economic/environmental damage this pest can cause."

EAB is an exotic insect native to Asia that attacks ash trees and was previously unknown on the North American continent until its discovery in Michigan in the summer of 2002. The borer has already impacted approximately ten million ash trees in southeast Michigan and continues to damage or destroy others in isolated areas in the Great Lakes state. The state has an active, multi-agency Emerald Ash Borer task force working collectively to detect, contain and respond to EAB in order to minimize its damage.

Today's amendment adds the following seven counties to the EAB quarantine:

Branch	Calhoun
Clinton	Eaton
Gratiot	Hillsdale
Saginaw	

Additionally, it now also prohibits the movement of ash materials and firewood in "outlier" sites or isolated pockets of infestation apart from the known generally infested area. The "outlier" infestations are believed to be the result of artificial spread of the insect (movement of infested ash material). Eradication efforts are currently underway in "outlier" sites to eliminate the beetle. For a detailed description of the locations and boundaries of the "outliers," please visit the MDA web site at www.michigan.gov/mda and click on "Emerald Ash Borer" in the spotlight section.

"This is a vital step to help halt the artificial spread of EAB and will aid in the battle against the beetle," said Wyant. "A key component to our overall success, is the support and cooperation of every Michigan resident and tourist by not moving firewood."

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Under the quarantine, it is illegal to move ash trees, branches, untreated lumber, deciduous firewood and any other materials from these areas unless chipped to one inch or smaller. Additionally, the movement of all ash nursery stock is prohibited within, into, and from the entire Lower Peninsula.

For more information about EAB or Michigan's response efforts, visit the MDA web site at www.michigan.gov/mda and click on "Emerald Ash Borer" in the spotlight section; or visit www.emeraldashborer.info. You can also call the MDA Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division at 517/373-1087 or contact your regional MDA office.

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(This news release can also be viewed online at www.michigan.gov).